

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
 - a processing system comprising memory; and
 - a communication adapter adapted to be coupled to a transmission medium, wherein the processing system further comprises:
 - logic to receive a sleep message from a power management system;
 - logic to place the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and
 - logic to selectively lower a speed of a clock signal from a first clock speed to a second clock speed ~~corresponding with the sleep state based on the sleep message~~, the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate;
 - the communication adapter is adapted to save data local to the communication adapter in the memory prior to transitioning to the sleep state.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises:
 - logic to determine the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and
 - logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises:

logic to determine [a] the first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

logic to selectively command the communication adapter to use [a] the second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises logic to place the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a data bus coupled between the communication adapter and the processing system, and wherein the processing system further comprises logic to selectively initiate a write command on the data bus addressed to the communication adapter specifying a change in one of a clock signal frequency and a communication protocol in response to the sleep message.

8. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a storage medium comprising machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

receiving a sleep message;

saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory;

placing the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and
selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal from a first clock speed to a second clock speed ~~corresponding with the sleep state based on the sleep message~~, the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and

selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

12. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for:

determining [a] the first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

selectively commanding the communication adapter to use [a] the second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal frequency associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

13. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine-readable instructions stored thereon for placing the communication adapter in an auto-sensing state in response to a resume message.

14. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a sleep message;

saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory;

placing the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; and

selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal from a first clock speed to a second clock speed ~~corresponding with the sleep state based on the sleep message~~, the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a

first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second transmission rate.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:
determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and
selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:
determining [a] the first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and
selectively commanding the communication adapter to use [a] the second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises placing the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
means for receiving a sleep message;
means for saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory;
means for placing the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message;
means for selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal from a first clock speed to a second clock speed ~~corresponding with the sleep state based on the sleep message~~, the first clock

speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and
means for selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for determining [a] the first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and

means for selectively commanding the communication adapter to use [a] the second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for placing the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the communication adapter is further adapted to retrieve the local data saved in the memory when the communication adapter resumes to a full power state.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine readable instructions stored thereon for retrieving the data local to the communication adapter saved in the system memory upon the communication adapter resuming a full power state.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises retrieving the data local to the communication adapter saved in the system memory upon the communication adapter resuming a full power state.
29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means for retrieving the data local to the communication adapter saved in the system memory upon the communication adapter resuming a full power state.